



Town of  
*Westford*  
Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

March 2015



Jodi Ross,  
Town  
Manager

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[www.westfordma.gov/tm](http://www.westfordma.gov/tm)  
978-692-5500

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**Annual Town Meeting**  
**Saturday, March 28**  
**10:00 AM**  
**At the Abbot School**

**Westford's Heathy Lakes**  
**And Ponds Discussion**  
**Thursday, April 2**

**Parent Support Group**  
**April 14, 7 - 8 PM**  
**Page 10**

**Annual Town Election**  
**Tuesday, May 5**



Watch  
Meetings Online  
**westford**   
community access television  
[www.westfordcat.org](http://www.westfordcat.org)

**Dear Westford residents,**

Congratulations to the Westford Boys' Swim Team, and their coach Harriet Kinnett, for winning the Division 1 State Championship.

Spring is just around the corner, and with it comes several important town deadlines and events.

I would like to remind you that March 17th is the deadline to submit nomination papers to the Town Clerk's Office for our May 5, 2015 Town Election. The Board of Selectmen will be discussing any ballot questions at their March 24th meeting.

Our Annual Town Meeting at 10:00 a.m. on March 28th is fast approaching. Please join us at the Abbot Elementary School while we discuss and vote on the following articles:

**Article 1:** accept the reports of Town Officers, Boards and Committees for FY14.

**Article 2:** approve unpaid bills from the prior fiscal year: appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$432.78 to pay for unpaid bills from Comcast for services incurred by the Technology department.

**Article 3:** approve FY15 supplemental appropriations: appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$681,500 to supplement the following operating budgets: 220 Fire Department Personal Services \$25,000.00; 423 Snow & Ice \$650,000.00; 610 Library Expenses \$6,500.00.

**Article 4:** approve FY15 budget transfers.

**Article 5:** appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$200,000 to fund DEP remediation measures associated with the perchlorate contamination from constructing the highway offices and garage.

**Article 6:** appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$2,233,199 to provide for town capital projects; to appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$233,441.98 and to reauthorize and transfer \$413,959.02 in unspent funds from previous capital projects to provide \$647,401 to fund the Keyes culvert reconstruction; to appropriate from the Water Enterprise Retained Earnings fund the sum of \$176,000 to fund lab equipment replacements, conduct a master plan update and a water building's roof study, and purchase a valve maintenance trailer; to appropriate from Ambulance Enterprise Retained Earnings the sum of \$340,000 to provide funding for EKG Monitors, replacing ambulance #12, and purchasing radios for the new ambulance.

**Article 7:** appropriate \$1,029,000 through bonding to design and construct a combined Police and Fire Dispatch Center at the Police Training Room.

**Article 8:** authorize the transfer of a parcel located on Boston Road and appropriate \$12,772,200 to design and construct a New Center Fire Station on Boston Road, using \$1,000,000 from Free Cash, with the balance bonded. The appropriations are subject to an affirmative debt exclusion vote. Note: if Article 7 fails, this amount will be increased to \$13,493,550 to allow the construction of a fire dispatch center in the new station.

**Article 9:** authorize improvements/betterments for Clare Circle through a \$33,000 betterment.

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- Article 10:** authorize the transfer of parcels located at 12 North Main Street from the Tax Possession Sale Committee to the Board of Selectmen, and authorize the disposition of the parcels under terms and conditions determined by the Board of Selectmen, and to appropriate \$27,960 for environmental insurance.
- Article 11:** appropriate from Community Preservation Funds the sum of \$717,584 for projects recommended by the Community Preservation Committee.
- Article 12:** amend the Pay Classification Plan for non-unionized municipal employees, effective July 1, 2015; to include the new full time position of Deputy Fire Chief at band 7, \$68,130 - \$97,463.
- Article 13:** authorize revolving funds for Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.
- Article 14:** appropriate the sum of \$104,832,693 for the operation and maintenance of Town Departments for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.
- Article 15:** appropriate a sum of money for road maintenance from the proceeds due to the town under the provisions of MGL Chapter 90.
- Article 16:** transfer the sum of \$20,704 from the Water Enterprise Other Post Employment Stabilization Fund to the Water Enterprise Expenses to pay for the FY16 retiree post employment benefits.
- Article 17:** accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 73, Section 4 of the Acts of 1986, as amended by Chapter 126 of the Acts of 1988, by providing for additional property exemptions for qualified residents who may be blind, elderly, surviving spouses or minors, or who are disabled veterans, and to continue the present percentage increase of 100%.
- Article 18:** accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 8J and create a Disability Commission to cause the full integration and participation of people with disabilities in our town.
- Article 19:** authorize the Board of Selectmen to initiate a Municipal Electricity Aggregation Program for residents and businesses, while retaining the right of individual residents and businesses to opt-out of the aggregation.
- Article 20:** authorize the Board of Selectmen to lease the former Westford Landfill site for a Solar Project, for a term of up to 20 years.
- Article 21:** accept the provisions of MGL Ch 71 Sec 71F to authorize the School Committee to establish a revolving fund for tuition payments from non-resident students.
- Article 22:** accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 200A, Section 9A to establish an alternative procedure for disposing of abandoned funds including unclaimed checks held in the custody of the town.
- Article 23:** authorize the Board of Selectmen, during FY16, to accept any and all easements for sidewalk, drainage, or other utility purposes, as they may deem in the town's best interests.
- Article 24:** vote to form a committee to examine current zoning by-laws and to consider new zoning by-laws insofar as they relate to affordable housing in Westford (citizen's petition).
- Article 25:** vote to form a committee to create more openness and transparency in local government (citizen's petition).
- Article 26:** accept Rome Drive Extension as a town public way.
- Article 27:** authorize the Selectmen to dispose of the former fire sub station located at 54 Broadway Street.
- Article 28:** transfer custody of six parcels containing storm water facilities on Rome Drive, Gifford Drive, Tyngsborough Road, Randolph Circle, and Pine Tree Trail from the Tax Possession Sale Committee to the Board of Selectmen.

For more information, Annual Town Meeting documents are available here: [ATM 2015](#).

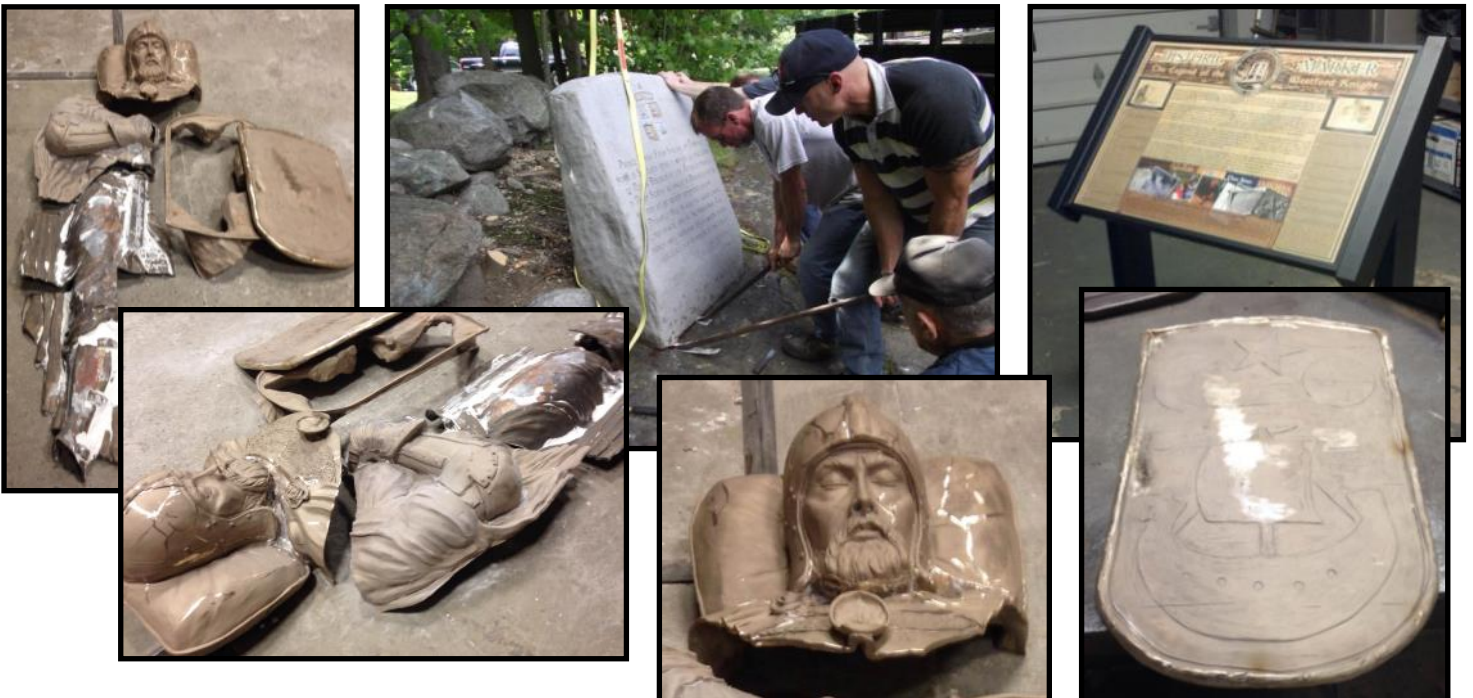
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Westford was fortunate to be designated as a Green Community by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources in December of 2013. This qualified us for a base grant of \$156,025 to complete energy efficiency measures. We used this grant funding, combined with \$44,831.50 in incentives from National Grid, to complete nine projects with a total value of \$200,854.50. These projects have helped us begin to achieve energy efficiency and sustainability goals identified in our Energy Reduction Plan (ERP), available online here: [ERP](#). These projects included energy management training for facilities staff, a boiler replacement at Blanchard Middle School, and energy efficiency lighting retrofits at the Police Station, J.V. Fletcher Library, Cameron Senior Center, Robinson School, and the Highway Department mechanics area and operations area. For details on the nine projects completed, please see the final grant report available here: [Green Community](#)



I am pleased to announce that the Water Department was awarded a Sustainable Water Management Initiative grant in the amount of \$78,942 by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for demand management projects that will include the installation of water meter radio read interface equipment and water saving low flow fixture retrofits in municipal buildings. This grant also includes funding to create a rebate program for customers who install water saving toilets and washing machines. Congratulation to Water Superintendent Stephen Cronin for obtaining this grant funding.

The Westford Remembers Memorial Fund has made great progress on their Westford Knight Preservation and Revitalization Project. A granite monument has been installed and a new informational sign is complete and waiting for installation. The photos below depict the current progress of the bronze effigy of the Westford Knight which will be situated at the site. Special thanks to Firefighter David Christiana and the other Westford Remembers Memorial Fund volunteers and donors who have made this project possible. For more information, please visit their Facebook page at: [WRMF](#).





The Agricultural Commission is making great progress on the development of Westford's Community Gardens. For information on their up-to-date developments, please view and subscribe to their newsletter at the following link: [Newsletter](#). The commission is also planning some fun events this spring which will likely include performances of their hit song "Let it Grow". If you missed it, the original song may be viewed here: [Let It Grow](#).

I will be speaking to the Westford Business Association on Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup> regarding Economic Development in our town over the past 5 years. Attached is a copy of the presentation: [WBA 3/10/2015](#).

In collaboration with the Middlesex 3 Coalition, Westford is sponsoring a Retail Best Practices Workshop to help Westford small business owners. This is free workshop being held on April 21, 2015 from 7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. at Princeton Properties, 500 Princeton Way. The workshop will feature retail marketing techniques, signage and interior design tools, merchandising, and other advice to enhance customer experiences. Since 2006, this program has helped over 1,500 small business owners around New England. To sign up, please email [info@middlesex3.com](mailto:info@middlesex3.com) or call 978-808-5281.

In an effort to enhance pedestrian and vehicular safety at our schools, the Selectmen approved a contract with BETA Group, Inc. for consulting services to review various school-related intersections and make recommendations for safety improvements.

Would you like more detailed information on Board of Selectmen meetings? Click the following links to access: [Board of Selectmen Documents](#) & [Board of Selectmen Meeting Videos](#).

There are several openings on other local boards and committees, including the Bylaw Review, Communications Advisory, Cultural Council, Historical Commission, Public Works Initiative Committee, and others, and I urge you to peruse our website for information about the work of these committees. If you have interest, please complete a Citizen's Activity form at this link: [Citizen Activity Form](#) or stop by and fill out a form in the Town Manager's office.

See you at Town Meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jodi Ross".

Jodi Ross  
Town Manager



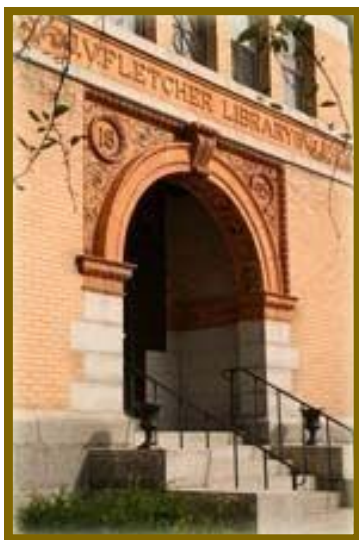
## **J.V. Fletcher Library**

### **J.V. Fletcher Library Feasibility Study**

The J.V. Fletcher Library and the Town of Westford have a unique opportunity to pursue two state-level library grants – one of which has already been awarded to the Town for the purpose of a Feasibility Study. Town Meeting Article 6 proposes a \$35,000 expenditure to supplement this grant so that the Town may assess the potential for a renovation/expansion of the current J. V. Fletcher Library facility on the Town Common site, or elsewhere, for the projected population of 2034. Twenty-seven years after the most recent addition, the current library space is constrained to find space to put “the public” in our Public Library.

In a world where cyberSPACE is the new “place”, where answers are sought and retrieved, why does a public library need more physical space? Cyberspace cannot offer: a chair to rock a fussy baby; a family bathroom with space for a caregiver, a stroller, a toddler and an infant; an imaginative, responsive Children’s Area; a Teen Space reflecting new technology and trends; physical study, research and tutorial spaces; a makerspace or computer lab; conference and community gathering spaces and code and safety-compliant public areas.

An enlarged library may be ten years in the planning. By planning for the next twenty years of library service, and in pursuing two state-funded grants to maximize the local tax dollar, Westford begins the conversation about the next chapter in Library service.



[WWW.WESTFORDLIBRARY.ORG](http://WWW.WESTFORDLIBRARY.ORG)



## Council On Aging - Coming Events

### **SPAGHETTI DINNER**

The Westford Police Association invites you to join them at a Spaghetti/Meatball Dinner (you can have your choice of just spaghetti or spaghetti and meatballs)

**Friday, March 27th at the Franco American Club**

between 5 and 9 PM. Dinner will be served around 5 PM.

Entertainment provided. This is FREE to all Senior Citizens age 60 and over.

Raffle prizes will be donated by local businesses.

Seniors must call the Cameron Senior Center at 978-692-5523 to reserve their dinner seat.



### **CANCELLATIONS**

When school is cancelled due to impassible and dangerous snow, ice, etc. then the Cameron Van will not operate and all activities at Cameron are cancelled.

Cameron will operate those days as a drop-in social warming center.

Meals on Wheels and Congregate Lunch are cancelled when Greater Lawrence Vocational School is closed. Watch Fox channel for the Greater Lawrence Vocational School closings.

### **LUNCH**

The Merrimack Valley Nutrition Program provides anyone age 60 and over with nutritional meals at Cameron, Monday – Friday at 11:30 AM.

Call 978-692-5523 a minimum of two days in advance between 8:00 - 10:00 AM to make your reservation.

The donation is \$2.00. If spouse/partner is under the age of 60, the meal cost is \$4.50.

**To view the complete  
Council On Aging Newsletter  
please visit our website at:**

**[www.westfordma.gov/coa](http://www.westfordma.gov/coa) and click on [Newsletters](#).**



## **Recycling Commission**

### **Online Information and Tips**

You've got questions? We've got answers! Visit [www.westfordma.gov/recycling](http://www.westfordma.gov/recycling).

**For details, click on a home page Quick Link button:**

- Recycling Guide
- Upcoming Events
- Recycling Schedule
- Recycle Everything from A-Z
- Bulk Items & Policy
- Toters
- F.A.Q.
- Contact Us
- Like us on Facebook



**On the home page, there are answers to:**

- What do you do if you have problems with your trash or recycling pickup?
- What are the Basics of Recycling?
- What is the Westford Mandatory Recycling and Trash Policy?
- How can you help with tax expenditures for trash?
- How do you obtain an Earth Machine home composter?
- What is the Westford Litter League Green Team?

You will also find Trash and Recycling Statistics to see how well Westford is doing.

The Recycling Commission (WRC) link on the left sidebar of the home page provides information on Commission volunteer members, WRC mission statement, meeting dates, and copies of meeting minutes.

If you can't find an answer to your recycling question, call a Recycling Commission volunteer. Their contact numbers are posted.

Thank you for reducing, reusing, and recycling! [www.westfordma.gov/recycling](http://www.westfordma.gov/recycling).

## **Water Department**

### **Grant Brings Clothes Washer and Toilet Rebate Program**

The Water Department is pleased to announce that we are a recipient of the 2014 Sustainable Water Management Initiative (SWMI) grant. This grant program, in its third year of funding, is designed to assist eligible public water suppliers and municipalities with Water Management Act permits by providing funds for planning assistance, demand management, and withdrawal impact mitigation projects in local communities.

The grant will fund several projects in Westford including retrofit of several town buildings with low-flow water saving toilets, implementation of a rebate program for water efficient appliances (see below!), and installation of radio-read water meters/interfaces to allow the Department to move toward monthly reading and billing. These projects will help to reduce consumer demand and improve department operations.

***The Water Department will soon begin offering rebates for qualifying low-flow toilets and water-efficient clothes washer!***

Two of the biggest indoor water users are the toilet and clothes washer. Together, they can account for almost 50% of indoor residential water use. If you're already thinking of replacing an old toilet or washer why not put in a more efficient model, save money and water, and get some extra cash?

What toilets and clothes washers will qualify for a rebate?

- ★ WaterSense labeled toilets that use 1.28 gallons per flush or less are eligible for a \$100 rebate. Limit of 2 toilet rebates per household
- ★ Energy Star labeled clothes washers with a Water Factor (WF) of 4.0 or less are eligible for a \$75 rebate. Limit of 1 clothes washer rebate per household.

***Rebate terms and conditions will apply!*** Visit the Water Department website at [www.westfordma.gov/water](http://www.westfordma.gov/water) for details and for the start/end dates of the program.

## Health Department News



**Chef Oonagh Williams**



# The Power of Food Your best medicine or worst poison

International and ethnic foods — British, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Lithuanian, Indian, Asian, as well as vegetarian and gluten free.

Thursday Mar. 26, 2015 • Stony Brook School, 9 Farmer Way, Westford  
7:00-9:00 pm • FREE Pre-register on-line: [www.SustainableWestford.org](http://www.SustainableWestford.org)

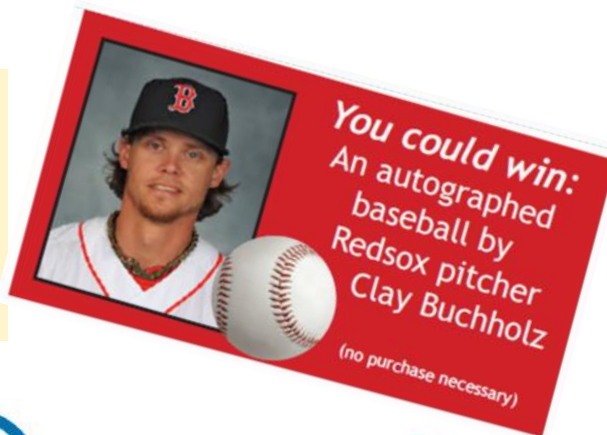
Chef Oonagh will help you understand how the food you commonly eat can be causing other problems - beyond high cholesterol but including arthritis, headaches, fatigue etc. Chef Oonagh will explain:

- The new FDA proposed food labeling
- Is GMO a good thing?
- Soy and corn everywhere
- How much sugar is too much sugar?
- The new cooking oils, new sugars, new grains, trans fat, hydrogenated fats.
- Is "fat free" and "sugar free" better for you?
- The increasing number of food allergies, not just gluten free.



Chef Oonagh Williams, who has appeared regularly for many years as the featured Chef on NH's ABC WMUR's Cooks Corner, presents The Power of Food – it can be the best medicine for your body or the worst poison. Chef Oonagh, has a Culinary Arts degree, and always cooks from scratch with real ingredients. She has a deep knowledge of food and presents in a lively, entertaining and informative manner - all with a very British accent.

Chef Oonagh presented this talk at the 40th Annual Gluten Intolerant Group Conference in Atlanta, GA and also at the NH Conference on Aging, both May 2014. Chef Oonagh has also presented several times at the Boston Celiac conferences, the largest Celiac Disease support group in the country.



Sponsored by:



**501c3 nonprofit - [www.SustainableWestford.org](http://www.SustainableWestford.org) - FREE Signup on-line**

## **Health Department News (continued)**

### **HEALTH /SAFETY DAY AND FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL**

Come join us at the Abbot School for a free Health Fair in conjunction with the Westford Food Truck Festival! Learn about your health and safety. Great family activities and food!! Over 40 vendors and educational booths with health information on numerous topics and many FREE screenings including:

**Blood Pressure Hearing**

**Coronary Risk Vision/Glaucoma**

**Pulmonary Function Thyroid Function**

**Blood Sugar PSA (for men)**

**Cholesterol Body Fat/BMI**

**Bone Density Elder Services**

**Chiropractic Skin Screening**

**Colorectal Dental Screening**

**Free Tetanus Boosters!**

**Free Child Safety Seat Checks**

**Date: May 2 Location: Abbot School Time: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm**  
***Walk in- No Appointments needed.***

***FREE GAMES AND FAMILY ACTIVITIES OUTDOORS!***

**Emergency Police and Fire Vehicles!**

**Safety information! Face Painting!**

**NINE FOOD TRUCKS!!!**



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### **PARENT SUPPORT GROUP**

This support group is free drop in group available to any parent who is concerned that their child might be struggling with a mental health issue. This can be something such as ADD, or some sadness, lots of worries or perhaps something more defined. This is a pro bono group offered for parents to come together and share ideas, offer support to each other and realize that they are not alone in our concern for our children. Facilitators are: Dianne Walsh, LICSW (Cognitive- Behavioral Therapist) and Sue Hanly, RN (school nurse).

**April 14th:** Non- Suicidal self-injury (NSSI) (cutting, burning, denial of food)  
Why and what to do and what not to do!

**Location:** Millennium School (behind Abbot) Large Old Purpose Room

**Time:** 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

## **Health Department News (continued)**

### **Westford's Healthy Lakes & Ponds Collaborative Presents:**



#### **AN EVENING DISCUSSING THE CURRENT HEALTH OF WESTFORD'S RECREATIONAL WATER BODIES AND WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP PRESERVE & RESTORE THEM!**

Westford's Healthy Lakes & Ponds Collaborative (HLPC) is happy to invite you to an evening of discussion followed by a Q&A centered on the current state of our local recreational waters. Topics to include:

- The results of Westford's Lake & Ponds Water Quality Study performed last year  
ESS Group, Environmental Consulting & Engineering Services
- Organic/Low Impact Landscaping & Systems Approach to Natural Turf  
Management - Chip Osborne, President of Osborne Organics LLC
- Center Pond Weed Project (for control of invasive species to reduce need for  
chemicals) - Joy Onasch, PE, Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) @  
UMass Lowell
- General ways you as a homeowner, business, and/or other local club/organization  
can help make a positive impact on our streams, rivers, ponds and lake, all of which  
effect the local aquifer which effects all of our recreational, ground, and  
drinking water.

**When: April 2nd, 2015 from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM**

**Where: Nabnasset Lake Country Club, 47 Oak Hill Road, Westford MA 01886**

**RSVP: RSVP is required** by either telephoning 978 692 5509 or  
by email: [llessard@westfordma.gov](mailto:llessard@westfordma.gov)

**Light refreshments will be served.**

## **Health Department News (continued)**

### **SEPTIC SYSTEM & DRINKING WATER WELL BASICS**

Please join us for an informational session and Q&A regarding on-site septic systems and private drinking water wells. Specific topics will include:

- Septic System Care & Maintenance Basics
- Title 5 System Inspections and Requirements for Property Transfers
- Private Drinking Water Well Quality (Recommended Testing Parameters & Frequency)

**Date:** Thursday March 26, 2015

**Time:** 7 P.M.

**Location:** Town Hall - 2nd Floor Main Meeting Room



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### **DEPARTMENT OFFERS WASTE WATER TRAINING**

On February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, The Westford Health Department offered two Waste Water training days for Westford's and surrounding communities Septic System Installers, Civil Engineers, Septage Haulers, and Title V Inspectors. Both training days were very well attended and attendees received continuing education credits for all seminars.

Town Clerk's Corner

# RABIES CLINIC

Saturday, March 14, 2015

9:00am to 11:00am

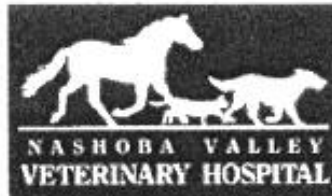
Center Fire Station

51 Main Street

Cost: \$15.00 per pet

Cats and Dogs are both welcome!

*Shots administered by Nashoba Valley Veterinary Hospital  
(checks payable to NVVH)*



## THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE TO LICENSE DOGS.

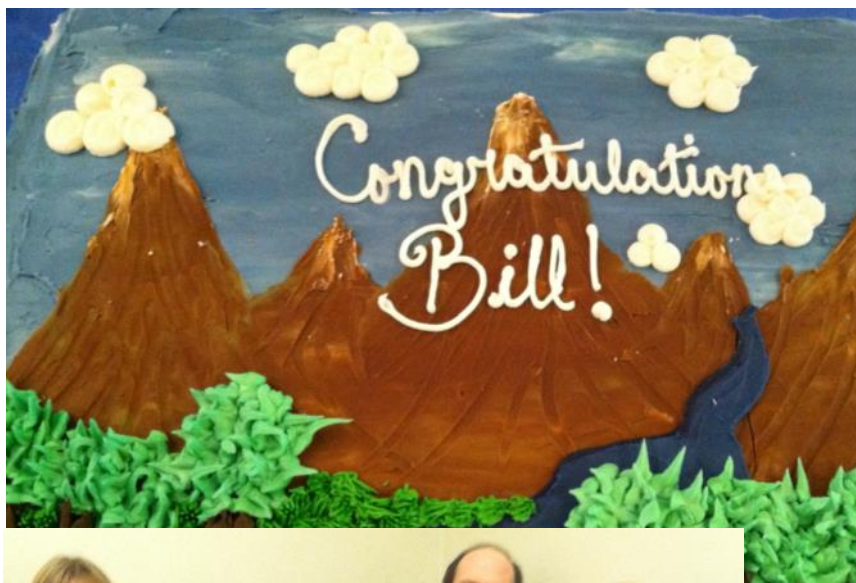
\$15.00 for altered

\$20.00 for un-altered

(checks payable to Town of Westford)

\*NOTE: THE LAST DAY THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE IS OPEN TO LICENSE  
'OUR DOG(S) BEFORE FINES APPLY IS TUESDAY, MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>, 8AM - 4PM

## Westford Conservation



**Conservation Agent Bill  
Turner Retired on  
February 27 after  
29 years of service.**

**Thank you Bill!**

